



MIT-024-USA-P

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claim 8 as follows: The status of each of the claims in this case is also set forth below.

1. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed comprising a plurality of side by side bars bendably connected with each other to allow the whole extent of the connected bars to be shortened and extended and to be curved, said bars being disposed generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bed, one of every adjacent two of the bars is provided with a plurality of longitudinal connecting protrusions being generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bed while a plurality of recesses having a rectangular cross-section and right and left lateral walls and top and bottom walls are formed in adjacent bars for accepting protrusions extending from an adjacent bar, said protrusions having an approximate rectangular cross-section and faces corresponding in configuration to the walls of said recesses into which the protrusions engage, in such a manner that the connecting protrusions of the bars can be inserted into corresponding recesses of an adjacent bar, whereby motion of adjacent bars in a vertical direction are blocked since top and bottom walls of each of the recesses contact a top and bottom face of a corresponding protrusion inserted therein, said protrusions having at tips and bases thereof first and second beveled portions, said first beveled portion being formed on a bottom face of each protrusion at its tip and said second beveled portion being formed on a top face of each protrusion at its back, said first and second beveled portions forming clearances between the protrusions and corresponding recesses to allow the connecting bars to be bent a preset distance in one direction only, whereby side by side bars can be adjusted in their intervals and can be rotated in one direction up to a predetermined angle, and disengagement preventing means comprising hooks formed at a tip of some of the connecting protrusions, and corresponding accepting recesses having steps therein

adapted to engage the hooks, so that the hooks and steps are engaged with each other when the respective adjacent bars are kept furthest away from each other, whereby bars arranged side by side can be adjusted in gaps between adjacent bars, said bars being connected with each other in such a manner that they can be curved as a whole up to a limited predetermined angle in one direction only.

2. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 1, wherein a bar disposed at an end of the bendable bottom member on one side has only accepting recesses.

3. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 1, wherein first beveled portions are formed on lower sides at tips of the connecting protrusions while second beveled portions are formed on upper sides at the bases of protrusions, to use the bendable bottom member as a bendable portion between a back region and a waist region.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 1, wherein the second beveled portions at the bases of the connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to the desired bending angles with the adjacent bars.

6. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 1, wherein hooks formed at tips of connecting protrusions are provided with the disengagement preventing means while steps to be engaged with the hooks are formed in corresponding accepting recesses.

7. (Previously Presented) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 2, wherein second beveled portions at bases of connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to desired bending angles with adjacent bars.

8. (Currently Amended) A bendable bottom member of a bed according to claim 3, wherein second beveled portions at bases of connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to desired bending angles with adjacent bars, and a gap being formed between every adjacent two connecting protrusions.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)